REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed January 15, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-36. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application but believe all pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record without amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable action in this case.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected to Claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,477,572 issued to Elderton et al. (*"Elderton"*). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position.

Elderton is directed to a method of displaying a computer network topology. The software provides a user a set of attributes for network objects in a network, and the user selects an attribute and an attribute value. (Col. 2, ll. 9-12). The mapper routine then builds a topology map that includes at least one icon representing network objects that have the user-selected attribute value for the attribute. (Col. 2, ll. 12-15). A given icon in the network topology map may represent a set of network objects grouped according to a user-selected attribute. (Col. 2, ll. 15-18, 33-35).

Independent Claim 1 and Dependent Claims 2-10

Independent Claim 1, as amended, recites:

> A system for modeling communication networks, comprising:
>
> a memory operable to store configuration data for different types of communication networks, the configuration data associating each type of communication network with components, connections, and rules for connecting the components using the connections; and
>
> a processing module coupled to the memory and operable to model the different types of networks using the configuration data, the processing module further operable to allow a user to select one of the types of communication networks and to design a model network using the components and connections associated with the selected type of communication network according to the configuration data.

Elderton does not disclose, teach, or suggest "a memory operable to store configuration data for different types of communication networks," as recited in Claim 1. *Elderton* relates to a computer network. (Col. 1, ll. 8-15). *Elderton* does not discuss different types of communication networks, much less "stor[ing] configuration data for different types of communication networks."

Moreover, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "the configuration data associating each type of communication network with components, connections, and rules for connecting the components using the connections," as recited in Claim 1. *Elderton* discusses network objects of a computer network that may be represented by an icon or symbol. (Col. 6, ll. 8-10, 32-34). *Elderton* does not describe "connections" or "rules for connecting the components using the connections." Moreover, *Elderton* does not describe any associations with each of a plurality of different types of communication networks as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest a processing module "operable to model the different types of networks using the configuration data," as recited in Claim 1. As discussed above, Elderton relates to a computer network as opposed to different types of communication networks. (Col. 1, ll. 8-15).

Furthermore, Elderton does not disclose, teach, or suggest "the processing module further operable to allow a user to select one of the types of communication networks and to design a model network using the components and connections associated with the selected type of communication network according to the configuration data," as recited in Claim 1. The mapper routine in *Elderton* allows a user to select an "attribute value," and then the routine builds a map with at least one icon representing a set of network object grouped according to the selected attribute value. (Col. 6, l. 65 - col. 7, l. 11). The mapper routine in *Elderton* is substantially different from the function of the processing module in Claim 1.

First, the "attribute value" in *Elderton* is not a type of communication network. According to *Elderton,* an "attribute" is a "characteristic of [a] node." (Col. 6, ll. 18-21). *Elderton* provides the following examples:

> Thus, for example, an attribute is an operating system type, available disk space, the identity of installed software versions, whether the object is enabled through the management framework, the identity and characteristics of the subnet within which the node is operating, the identity of the router to which the object is connected, and the like.

(Col. 6, ll. 21-27). Nothing in *Elderton* mentions different types of communication networks.

Furthermore, the mapper in *Elderton* does not use the selected attribute value to allow a user "to design a model network using the components and connections associated with the selected type of communication network according to the configuration data." The mapper routine of *Elderton* uses the "attribute value" to group a set of nodes or objects that have a common attribute value. (Col. 6, ll. 30-34; col. 6, l. 65 - col. 7, l. 11). *Elderton* does not describe allowing a user to design a communication network using components and connections associated with the selected "attribute value."

For at least these reasons, *Elderton* do not anticipate the system of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 1, as well as dependent Claims 2-10 which depend from Claim 1.

Independent Claim 11 and Dependent Claims 12-20

Independent Claim 11, as amended, recites:

> A method of modeling communication networks, comprising:

> storing configuration data for different types of communication networks, the configuration data associating each type of communication network with components, connections, and rules for connecting the components using the connections;

> receiving a user selection for one of the different types of communication networks; and

> allowing a user to design a model network using the components and connections associated with the selected type of communication network according to the configuration data.

Elderton does not disclose, teach, or suggest "storing configuration data for different types of communication networks," as recited in Claim 11. *Elderton* relates to a computer network. (Col. 1, ll. 8-15). *Elderton* does not discuss different types of communication networks, much less "storing configuration data for different types of communication networks."

Moreover, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "the configuration data associating each type of communication network with components, connections, and rules for connecting the components using the connections," as recited in Claim 11. *Elderton* discusses network objects of a computer network that may be represented by an icon or symbol. (Col. 6, ll. 8-10, 32-34). *Elderton* does not describe "connections" or "rules for

connecting the components using the connections." Moreover, *Elderton* does not describe any associations with each of a plurality of different types of communication networks as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "receiving a user selection for one of the different types of communication networks," as recited in Claim 11. *Elderton* allows a user to select an "attribute value," but as pointed out above with reference to Claim 1, an "attribute value" is not a type of communication network.

Furthermore, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "allowing a user to design a model network using the components and connections associated with the selected type of communication network according to the configuration data," as recited in Claim 11. The mapper routine of *Elderton* uses the "attribute value" to group a set of nodes or objects that have a common attribute value. (Col. 6, ll. 30-34; col. 6, l. 65 - col. 7, l. 11). *Elderton* does not describe allowing a user to design a communication network using components and connections associated with the selected "attribute value."

For at least these reasons, *Elderton* do not anticipate the method of Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 11, as well as dependent Claims 12-20 which depend from Claim 11.

Independent Claim 21 and Dependent Claims 22-30

Independent Claim 21, as amended, recites:

> Network modeling software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to perform the following steps:

> storing configuration data for different types of communication networks, the configuration data associating each type of communication network with components, connections, and rules for connecting the components using the connections;

> receiving a user selection for one of the different types of communication networks; and

> allowing a user to design a model network using the components and connections associated with the selected type of communication network according to the configuration data.

Elderton does not disclose, teach, or suggest "storing configuration data for different types of communication networks," as recited in Claim 21. *Elderton* relates to a computer

network. (Col. 1, ll. 8-15). *Elderton* does not discuss different types of communication networks, much less "storing configuration data for a plurality of network types."

Moreover, Elderton does not disclose, teach, or suggest "the configuration data associating each type of communication network with components, connections, and rules for connecting the components using the connections," as recited in Claim 21. *Elderton* discusses network objects of a computer network that may be represented by an icon or symbol. (Col. 6, ll. 8-10, 32-34). *Elderton* does not describe "connections" or "rules for connecting the components using the connections." Moreover, *Elderton* does not describe any associations with each of a plurality of different types of communication networks as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "receiving a user selection for one of the different types of communication networks," as recited in Claim 21. *Elderton* allows a user to select an "attribute value," but as pointed out above with reference to Claim 1, an "attribute value" is not a type of communication network.

Furthermore, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "allowing a user to design a model network using the components and connections associated with the selected type of communication network according to the configuration data," as recited in Claim 21. The mapper routine of *Elderton* uses the "attribute value" to group a set of nodes or objects that have a common attribute value. (Col. 6, ll. 30-34; col. 6, l. 65 - col. 7, l. 11). *Elderton* does not describe allowing a user to design a communication network using components and connections associated with the selected "attribute value."

For at least these reasons, *Elderton* do not anticipate the method of Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 21, as well as dependent Claims 22-30 which depend from Claim 22.

Independent Claim 31 and Dependent Claims 32-33

Independent Claim 31 recites:

> A system for modeling communication networks, comprising:

> a memory operable to store first configuration data for a first type of communication network and second configuration data for a second type of communication network; and

> a processing module coupled to the memory and operable to determine whether a first mode operation corresponding to the first type of communication network is

activated and to allow a user to design a model network of the first type of communication network using the first configuration data if the first mode of operation is activated, the processing module further operable to determine whether a second mode of operation corresponding to the second type of communication network is activated and to allow a user to design a model network of the second type of communication network using the second configuration data if the second mode of operation is activated.

Elderton does not disclose, teach, or suggest "a memory operable to store first configuration data for a first type of communication network and second configuration data for a second type of communication network," as recited in Claim 31. As pointed out above with reference to Claim 1, *Elderton* relates to a computer network. (Col. 1, ll. 8-15). The mapper routine in *Elderton* does not distinguish between different types of communication networks, much less associate different configuration data with different types of communication networks.

In addition, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "a processing module coupled to the memory and operable to determine whether a first mode operation corresponding to the first type of communication network is activated and to allow a user to design a model network of the first type of communication network using the first configuration data if the first mode of operation is activated, the processing module further operable to determine whether a second mode of operation corresponding to the second type of communication network is activated and to allow a user to design a model network of the second type of communication network using the second configuration data if the second mode of operation is activated," as recited in Claim 31. *Elderton* relates to a computer network. (Col. 1, ll. 8-15). *Elderton* does not describe different types of communication networks or different modes of operation associated with different types of communication networks. In addition, *Elderton* does not describe determining whether a particular mode operation is activated and allowing a user to design a model network of the type of communication network associated with the mode of operation.

For at least these reasons, *Elderton* do not anticipate the method of Claim 31. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 31, as well as dependent Claims 32-33 which depend from Claim 31.

Independent Claim 34 and Dependent Claims 35-36

Independent Claim 34 recites:

A method for modeling communication networks, comprising:

storing first configuration data for a first type of communication network;

storing second configuration data for a second type of communication network;

determining whether a first mode operation corresponding to the first ~~network~~ type of communication network is activated;

allowing a user to design a model network of the first type of communication network using the first configuration data if the first mode of operation is activated;

determine whether a second mode of operation corresponding to the second type of communication network is activated; and

allowing a user to design a model network of the second type of communication network using the second configuration data if the second mode of operation is activated.

Elderton does not anticipate the method of Claim 34. First, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "storing first configuration data for a first type of communication network" and "storing second configuration data for a second type of communication network," as recited in Claim 34. . As pointed out above with reference to Claim 1, *Elderton* relates to a computer network. (Col. 1, ll. 8-15). The mapper routine in *Elderton* does not distinguish between different types of communication networks, much less associates different configuration data with different types of communication networks.

In addition, *Elderton* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "determining whether a first mode operation corresponding to the first network type is activated;" "modeling a communication network of the first network type using the first configuration data if the first mode of operation is activated;" "determine whether a second mode of operation corresponding to the second network type is activated;" and "modeling a communication network of the second network type using the second configuration data if the second mode of operation is activated," as recited in Claim 34. *Elderton* relates to a computer network. (Col. 1, ll. 8-15). *Elderton* does not describe different types of communication networks or different modes of operation associated with different types of communication networks. In

addition, *Elderton* does not describe determining whether a particular mode operation is activated and allowing a user to design a model network of the type of communication network associated with the mode of operation.

For at least these reasons, *Elderton* do not anticipate the method of Claim 34. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 34, as well as dependent Claims 35-36 which depend from Claim 34.

Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeffery D. Baxter, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6791.

Applicants enclose a check for $790.00 to cover the fee for filing this Request for Continued Examination and a check for $450.00 to cover the fee for filing a two-month extension of time. Applicants believe no other fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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